

# JERWOOD/FVU AWARDS

Curated by FVU

## Jerwood/FVU Awards 2020: *Hindsight*

Guy Oliver | Reman Sadani



Guy Oliver, *You Know Nothing of My Work*, 2020 (still)



Reman Sadani, *Walkout 1*, 2020 (still)

Jerwood Arts, 29 October - 21 November 2020  
Online, 29 October - 13 December 2020  
JerwoodFVUawards.com #JerwoodFVUawards

Artists Guy Oliver and Reman Sadani, winners of the Jerwood/FVU Awards 2020, will exhibit two commissioned moving-image works at Jerwood Arts this October. Responding to this year's theme of *Hindsight*, each artist explores the power of reflection through film-making, how ideas shift through time and generations, and the complex nature of hindsight itself.

**Guy Oliver's** film, *You Know Nothing of My Work*, is a multi-chapter rumination on the cultural dilemma of the disgraced popular icon, the tension between a problematic past and a more enlightened present, and the role of the male voice in a post-Me Too era. The work, which is his biggest commission to date, develops Oliver's established practice of mixing pop culture references with self-deprecating character performances and complex social issues. Idiosyncratic in style and form, this moving-image work takes the unexpected form of a musical to unpick the notion of celebrity, toxic masculinity, and moral ambiguity. Oliver adopts various male archetypes as he probes what to do with the work of cultural icons such as Michael Jackson, Woody Allen, Kevin Spacey, and Bill Cosby. Stepping into the backdrop of familiar film and television sets, Oliver also looks specifically at British culture, particularly how to marry the importance of era-defining shows such as "Top of the Pops" with the knowledge of their systematic, institutional failure. By exploring this difficult subject through the medium of song and the device of rhyming couplets, Oliver blurs the comic and the tragic, questions his own stance on these issues, and allows the awkwardness of his position as a male artist to spill onto the screen. Collaborators on the project include:

contributions from Rebecca Lucy Taylor / Self Esteem and Kevin Peterson “T1J”, with music by Suzy Davies featuring the The Angels of Kaos choir.

Whilst Oliver’s film shows how hindsight can cast a harsh light on the past, **Reman Sadani’s *Walkout 1***, reflects how a preoccupation with the past could be considered a privilege when faced with the challenges of the present. *Walkout 1* is set in a city that has been shrouded in dust, setting the film in a post-crisis, desert-like cityscape. The poetic film explores the flaws of a society’s single viewpoint, in particular how a dominant ideology can be forced upon a younger generation. In order to lift the cloud of dust, four young characters are instructed by an elder who rigidly adheres to a vision, leading to doubts and questions from her followers. The nature of crisis shows that it is often impossible to ‘look back’ and reflect because of a present, urgent need for survival. The film draws on Sadani’s own experiences of growing up in Arab countries and later moving to the UK. Various contributors were interviewed about their own ideas of the city, which sparked discussions of flawed systems of authority, collective frustrations and changing political narratives, all of which helped *Walkout 1* take shape. Having recently graduated from her BA at the Slade School of Fine Art, Sadani is the youngest ever awardee of the Jerwood/FVU Awards, and this film exemplifies the talent of someone who promises to be one of the art world’s rising stars.

Following a nationwide call for applications at the beginning of 2019, each artist was awarded £25,000 to develop significant new moving-image works with Film and Video Umbrella for exhibition at Jerwood Arts. The panel for the 2020 Awards consisted of: Irene Aristizábal, Head of Curatorial and Public Practice, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and Co-curator British Art Show 9 (2020); Steven Bode, Director, Film and Video Umbrella; Harriet Cooper, Head of Visual Arts, Jerwood Arts; and Shezad Dawood, artist.

*The Jerwood/FVU Awards responds to a need for significant major commission opportunities for early-career moving-image artists, enabling them to create ambitious, timely and often challenging new works. Guy and Reman’s new commissions exemplify this; highlighting the unique opportunity of using this medium to reflect, question and imagine the complexity of our collective experience today.*

#### **Harriet Cooper, Head of Visual Arts, Jerwood Arts**

*Guy Oliver and Reman Sadani stood out from the more than 200 applicants to the latest Jerwood/FVU Awards, and their two films have proved similarly outstanding now they are made. Very different in form and tone, but both utterly compelling in their own way, they develop this year’s theme of ‘hindsight’ to shed light on a turbulent present moment whose ongoing cultural flashpoints and underlying generational shifts arise from a profound sense of outrage or disillusion with discredited historical notions or shameful episodes from the recent past. It has been a pleasure to work with such talented artists as Reman and Guy on two hugely insightful and provocative projects that demonstrate the continuing vitality of artists’ moving-image.*

#### **Steven Bode, Director, Film and Video Umbrella**

The two new commissions will be exhibited as large-scale installations in the galleries at Jerwood Arts through Autumn 2020. Entry will be by pre-booked time slots which will allow visitors to experience each work in full during an hour-long experience. An online exhibition will accompany

this and includes further interviews, films and essays that explore the ideas behind the works; alongside newly commissioned texts by artist Louise Ashcroft and Dr Adnan Madani, artist, writer and curator who currently lectures at Goldsmiths University of London. The events programme will be announced in October, and will be hosted online.

The other shortlisted artists for this year's awards were: Bryony Gillard, Jennifer Martin, Anna Raczynski and Lisa Selby/bluebaglife.

Over the past seven editions, the Jerwood/FVU Awards have provided a significant platform for the selected artists, with all recipients gaining further critical recognition following their exhibitions at Jerwood Arts. Webb-Ellis, recipients of the 2019 Jerwood/FVU Awards, recently presented two new works in the UK: *We chose the earth*, at Whitstable Biennale, and *For One Who is Exhausted*, at Tintype Gallery, as part of their Essex Road moving image program. 2018 recipient Maeve Brennan has subsequently exhibited work at the Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin and The Palestinian Museum, Birzeit. Fellow 2018 recipient Imran Perretta's commission was acquired by the Arts Council Collection, and he has made another major commission for Chisenhale Gallery, Spike Island, and The Whitworth, University of Manchester. He was shortlisted for the Jarman Award 2019. 2017 recipient Lawrence Lek's commission went on to show at the Venice Biennale in 2017, and he has been showing at major institutions around the world ever since. He was also shortlisted for the prestigious Jarman Award and the Arts Foundation Experimental Architecture Award in 2018. In 2019 Lek released AIDOL, the sequel to his Jerwood/FVU Awards commission *Geomancer* (2017), at Sadie Coles HQ, London to critical acclaim. Fellow 2017 recipient Patrick Hough exhibited his commission as part of Artists' Film International, which has toured to major international institutions since 2017. Hough is now completing a new commission with FVU, *The Black River of Herself*, which will be released in 2021.

### Listings information

VIP/Press preview day: 23 October, 27 October 2020  
Public opening dates: 29 October – 21 November 2020  
Opening days: Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
Opening hours: 12-7pm, pre-booking required

Alongside this there will be an online exhibition of the works from 29 October – 13 December 2020; and a digital events programme to accompany the exhibition.

Website: [www.jerwoodfvuawards.com](http://www.jerwoodfvuawards.com) | [www.jerwoodarts.org](http://www.jerwoodarts.org) | [www.fvu.co.uk](http://www.fvu.co.uk) |

Social Media: #JerwoodFVUawards @JerwoodArts @FilmVidUmbrella

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For further information on the Jerwood/FVU Awards, please contact:

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**Notes to Editors:**

### **Project credit**

The Jerwood/FVU Awards are a collaboration between Jerwood Arts and Film and Video Umbrella. FVU is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

### **Press images**

All press images are available [here](#).

### **Artist biographies**

**Reman Sadani** (b. 1995, Yemen) is an Iraqi artist who lives and works in London. She is a graduate of the Slade School of Fine Art, working across film and writing. Most recently with a loose collective of independent Iraqi filmmakers, Reman toured Malmö, Carthage and Marrakech Film Festivals in a series of development labs. Recent group exhibitions and screenings include *Soundings*, Raven Row, London (2019); *A Night of Shorts*, SET, London (2018); *No Screening*, IMT Gallery, London (2015). [remansadani.com](http://remansadani.com) | [Previous work](#)

**Guy Oliver** (b. 1982, London) lives and works in London. He graduated from the Royal College of Art (MA Painting) in 2015, and his interdisciplinary practice employs video as well as text, digital print, painting, collage and performance. Recent solo exhibitions include *And You Thought I Was Bad?*, Zabłudowicz Collection, London (2018), *Live From San Quentin*, Random Access Gallery, Syracuse, New York (2018) and *Did You Think I'd Leave You Dying?*, Chalton Gallery, London (2017). Recent group exhibitions and screenings include *The Generation of Choice*, Gen En Regalia, New York (2018), *Rebel Souls*, Daata Editions, Art Rio, Rio De Janeiro (2018), *Newstalgia!* The Austrian Cultural Forum, London (2018), *Collective Failure*, J Hammond Projects, London (2018); *Staging Series*, Jerwood Space, London (2017); and *Zona Mista*, Westminster Waste, London. He recently participated in the Rupert residency programme in Vilnius, Lithuania. [guyoliver.co.uk](http://guyoliver.co.uk) | [Previous work](#)

### **Jerwood/FVU Awards so far:**

2019: *Going, Gone*

Commissions: Webb-Ellis and Richard Whitby

2018: *Unintended Consequences*

Commissions: Maeve Brennan and Imran Perretta

2017: *Neither One Thing or Another*

Commissions: Patrick Hough and Lawrence Lek

2016: *Borrowed Time*

Commissions: Karen Kramer and Alice May Williams

2014-15: *What Will They See of Me?*

Commissions: Lucy Clout and Marianna Simnett

Shortlist: Kate Cooper and Anne Haaning

2012-13: *Tomorrow Never Knows*

Commissions: Ed Atkins and Naheed Raza

Shortlist: Emma Hart and Corin Sworn

**Jerwood Arts is the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. We enable transformative opportunities for individuals across art forms, supporting**

imaginative awards, bursaries, fellowships, projects, programmes and commissions. We present new work and bring people from across the arts together through our exhibitions and events at Jerwood Space, London, as well as across the UK. [jerwoodarts.org](http://jerwoodarts.org)

Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents artists' moving-image works that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced more than 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions. [fvu.co.uk](http://fvu.co.uk)

